

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2353 – SB 2575

March 12, 2014

SUMMARY OF BILL: Enacts the "Fiscally Responsible Equal Election Diversification Optimization Measures (FREEDOM) Act" that: redefines "recognized minor party" to mean any group or association that has successfully filed with the coordinator of elections the documents required of a political party; changes procedures and requirements for recognition as a minor party for primary and general elections; establishes requirements for the coordinator of elections; deletes and rewrites section of law pertaining to the methods and procedures used, by statewide political parties and recognized minor parties, for the purpose of making nominations. Establishes procedures and rules, including those required for the certification process, for any such persons nominated. Sets deadlines and establishes criteria for filing notices of nominations with the county executive committee, the county election commission, and the coordinator of elections. Specifies that such notice be notarized and contain certain specified language. Authorizes a county legislative body of a county with a population in excess of 825,000, by resolution adopted by two-thirds vote, to require all elections to fill state trial court judgeships and county judicial offices to be conducted in a nonpartisan manner.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures - Exceeds \$5,000*

Assumptions:

- According to the Secretary of State, this bill will have no fiscal impact on the department.
- According to information provided by the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS), this bill will likely lead to longer ballots and could lead to additional primary elections. Increased costs would depend on number of minor parties seeking to add a candidate, and the number who seek to hold a primary election in a county where the statewide parties have decided not to hold a primary.
- Given the extent of unknown factors, a precise local impact cannot be determined. However, the mandatory increase in local expenditures is reasonably estimated to exceed \$10,000 statewide once every two years to coincide with election cycles. When annualized, the mandatory and recurring increase in local expenditures is reasonably estimated to exceed \$5,000 per year statewide.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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